

Episode #638 The Why Question 23: Why Oppression?

I. One of the most difficult questions we must ask ourselves regarding God, life, and the world is the “why” question. We who believe that there is a God Who is all-good and all-loving and Who made the world must answer why then this world is such a terrible place and in such a mess.

II. We have discussed the sad situation of poverty, and then considered that poverty is often caused by oppression: sometimes foreign oppression, but sadly far more often oppression by peoples’ own governments. Last time we examined why governments exist, and discovered that it was for the purpose of justice, particularly for executing the murderer. The Bible is very much a book of government. The law is about government laws, not just religious laws. Many of the books of the Bible are focused on rulers. Many of the history books are about rulers, the proverbs are advice to rulers, and the prophets are often focused on rulers. The New Testament as well is about the “kingdom of God,” God’s government. Yet human governments often oppress.

III. God’s Reaction to Oppression.

- A. Ezekiel 22:29-31. Oppression fills the Adonai Jehovah with indignation.
- B. Example from the minor prophets: much of the complaint of Amos is against oppression of the poor in the land. Amos 2:6, 3:9, 4:1-3, 5:11, 8:5-7.

IV. God’s Hope for Oppression.

- A. II Samuel 23:1-6. The last words of David give the key to just rule: the fear of God!
- B. Psalm 103:6, 19. God’s kingdom will ultimately rule and bring about God’s idea of just government to the oppressed.
- C. Psalm 82 gives God’s complaint against unjust rulers and the solution of it: God judging the earth Himself!
- D. Psalm 101 gives David’s assessment of what his own rule will be like in God’s future kingdom.
- E. Isaiah 9:6-7. The promise is that someday the government will fall on the Son’s shoulder. The result? Increase and peace and justice.
- F. Revelation 19:11-15. At the second coming the Lord Jesus is presented as King of kings and Lord of lords.

V. Conclusion: Though there is oppression in the world, and that is what we are fighting against in seeking to form a free society, yet for all our efforts it could happen that some generation will drop the ball and allow tyranny to take over. Even in times when there are checks and balances on the government, leaders do not always know the right things to do to govern the people. Oppression is as common today as ever, yet God is still interested in governments and righteous rule. His demands to rulers is that they rule justly. Someday God will take control of the governments of this world, and Jesus Christ will rule them as He sees fit. In that day, all oppression will end.